



ALABAMA STATEWIDE AHEC PROGRAM COVID-19 TESTING RESPONSE PROGRESS TO-DATE

Beginning in April 2020, the Alabama Statewide AHEC Program initiated a new partnership with the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH), the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB), Alabama Civil Air Patrol (CAP), and other local leadership and community organizations as rural and underserved hot spot regions have been identified across the state. This statewide response was able to utilize the model of AHEC's five regional centers for outreach to further develop existing partnerships and develop new partners in the delivery of testing efforts.

In addition, the efforts of Alabama AHEC in this initiative focus on underserved populations with high incidence of COVID-19, particularly in Hispanic and African American populations. The initiative would not be possible without UAB, which provides and evaluates the samples, and CAP, which secures and delivers the tests to and from the site for testing. Equally integral to the initiative are AHEC's local health professions partners, who administer and ensure the viability of the tests at each site. Alabama AHEC received \$757,000 in CARES Act funding in July 2020 to support these efforts.

TEST SITE ACTIVITIES

The Alabama Statewide AHEC Program distributed facemasks, sanitizer, and COVID educational information at most testing events. All of the events were drive through. Participants did not have to be symptomatic or provide health insurance information to receive testing.

A simple nasal swab method was utilized, through which most individuals were able to swab their own nose to provide a sample that was then sent to the UAB lab for analysis. This simple and pain-free procedure allowed for a quick process and for many individuals to be tested during a small time-frame. Test results, both positive and negative, were available within 48 hours and communicated to the individuals by Alabama AHEC and its partners.

COVID-19 TEST SITES

Advertised on Social Media & Local/Regional Media Outlets

Pre-AHEC CARES ACT Funding*				
Date	County	City	Location	Total Tests
May 12	Sumter	Panola	Town of Panola	25
May 12	Sumter	Livingston	Jaycee Park	28
May 14	Sumter	Coatopa	Bethel Pine Baptist Church	55
May 14	Sumter	Epes	Epes City Hall	39
May 19	Sumter	Emelle/Geiger	M&M Grocery	63
May 19	Sumter	Gainesville	Gainesville City Hall	44
May 21	Pickens	Cuba	Kinterbish Junior High School	66
May 26	Sumter	Gainesville	Gainesville City Hall	50
May 26	Sumter	Emelle	Emelle City Hall	30
May 28	Hale	Greensboro	Hale County Health Center	135
June 3	Sumter	Cuba	Townsend Mission Community Center	51
June 9	Sumter	Cuba	Morning Star Baptist Church	47
June 10	Sumter	York	Hill Hospital	40
June 16	Sumter	Coatopa	Bethel Pine Church	60
June 18	Sumter	Whitfield	Whitfield Community Center	30
June 19	Sumter	Livingston	Sumter County Census Drive	0
June 20	Greene	Mt. Hebron	Low Road Fire Department	25
June 24	Hale	Aliceville	National Guard	110
June 26	Sumter	Gainesville	Gainesville City Hall	43
June 30	Greene	Eutaw	Eutaw Activity Center	12
Post-AHEC CARES ACT Funding				
June 24	Hale	Akron	Akron Fire Station	67
July 28	Shelby	Pelham	Supermarket	149
August 8	Choctaw	Pennington	Pennington Town Hall	70
August 11	Choctaw	Lisman	Lisman Town Hall	54
August 11	Shelby	Pelham	Supermarket	143
August 15	Sumter	Emelle	Emelle City Hall	43
August 17	Pickens	Pickens	Pickens County Medical Center	50
August 20	Etowah	Gadsden	Gadsden High School	129
August 26	Bullock	Union Springs	Eastside Baptist Church	44
August 27	Lowndes	Hayneville	Lowndes Co. Sheriff Office	24
September 7	Conecuh	Evergreen	Evergreen Medical Center	37
September 9	Shelby	Calera	Concord Baptist Church	15
September 21	Escambia	Brewton	1150 South BLVD	51
October 2	Butler	Georgiana	Hank William Park	---
October 5	Covington	Andalusia	Kiwanis Community Center	---

*As reported by West Central Alabama AHEC in partnership with the Health & Wellness Education Center.

COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER MODEL

In order to best facilitate its testing initiative in the rural and underserved communities of Alabama, the Alabama Statewide AHEC Program has utilized the Community Health Worker Model to great effect.

Community Health Workers (CHWs) are trusted, knowledgeable, frontline health personnel who typically come from the communities they serve. CHWs bridge cultural and linguistic barriers, expand access to coverage and care, and improve health outcomes. As critical links between their communities and the health care system, CHWs reduce health disparities; boost health care quality, cultural competence and affordability; and empower individuals and communities for better health.

Timeline for Community Health Worker Development*

Friday, September 25: Source existing CHWs through partnership organizations

Friday, September 25: Complete training modules

Monday, Sept. 28: Communicate to all regional AHEC Centers available CHWs

Friday, October 2: Decision on existing CHWs by regional AHEC Center

Week of October 5–9: Contract completion and training for AHEC CHWs

Monday, October 12: Official start date for AHEC CHWs

Friday, October 16: Complete recruitment of “new” CHWs by regional AHEC Centers

Week of October 19–23: Training and contract completion for recruited CHWs

Monday, October 26: Official start date for newly recruited CHWs

*Development calendar adjusted to later dates than originally proposed due to delayed funding.

CHW Data Collection

- Due at the conclusion of each month: October, November, December
- Data template sent to each regional AHEC Center in advance: the proper use of the template is included in CHW training sessions
- Monthly data document due by the 5th of each month following data month:
 - October due November 5
 - November due December 5
 - December due January 5